

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1880

Introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee

January 19, 2006

An act to add Section 7200.08 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental institutions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1880, as amended, Blakeslee. State Hospitals: care of the mentally disordered.

Under existing law, the State Department of Mental Health has jurisdiction over 5 hospitals for the care, treatment, and education of the mentally disordered.

This bill would require the State Department of Mental Health to take specified actions with respect to the administration of state hospitals under the jurisdiction of the department, ~~including with respect to~~ prohibiting the use of tobacco products in all state hospitals, except as provided, ~~establishing a temporary stabilization unit within a designated area of each state hospital for patients in crisis who demonstrate violent and dangerous behavior, and establishing a program, to the extent permitted by state law, for the payment of retention and recruiting bonuses for employees that are designed to improve employee retention and increase staffing capabilities at state hospitals.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7200.08 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:
3 7200.08. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
4 State Department of Mental Health shall take ~~all~~ *both* of the
5 following actions with respect to state hospitals under the
6 jurisdiction of the department:
7 (a) Adopt regulations prohibiting the use of tobacco products
8 by patients in all state hospitals, with the exception of the use of
9 tobacco products in religious rites or ceremonies approved by the
10 department.
11 (b) Prohibit the use of tobacco products by any person not
12 covered by subdivision (a), on the grounds of a state hospital,
13 with the exception of the use of tobacco in a designated smoking
14 area for staff and others where patients are not present.
15 ~~(c) Establish a temporary stabilization unit within a designated~~
16 ~~area of each state hospital, to be used to treat patients in crisis~~
17 ~~who demonstrate violent and dangerous behavior. For the safety~~
18 ~~of the affected patient, staff, and other patients, the temporary~~
19 ~~stabilization unit shall be located in a secured area of the~~
20 ~~hospital, and be sufficiently staffed to protect the health and~~
21 ~~safety of the patients and staff, and to accommodate the special~~
22 ~~needs of the patients until they can be stabilized and prepared to~~
23 ~~reenter the general patient population.~~
24 ~~(d) Establish a program, to the extent permitted by state law,~~
25 ~~for the payment of retention and recruiting bonuses for~~
26 ~~employees that are designed to address serious and chronic~~
27 ~~understaffing at state hospitals, and to improve employee~~
28 ~~retention. The program shall be administered by the director of~~
29 ~~each state hospital.~~

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